

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -35 Usc § 103

Claims 1-2, 6, 8-10, 12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. U.S. Patent 5,841,840 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 5,901,205 in view of Kikinis U.S. Patent 6,480,486 B2. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to include the limitation that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 12 and those depend therefrom are patentably distinguishable from the combination of cited references.

Claim 7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. U.S. Patent 5,841,840, U.S. Patent 5,901,205, Kikinis U.S. Patent 6,480,486 B2 as applied to claim I above, and further in view of Kahkoska et al. U.S. Patent 6,002,671. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is patentably distinguishable from the combination of cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicant believes this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, please contact the below named attorney for Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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